the years 1985, 1986 and 1987 (upto Sept.) for setting up of industries:—

	Letters of Intent granted during		
	1985	1986	1987 (upto Sept.)
All-India Total	1457	1130	706
Share of Backward areas (including No-industry districts) .	774	621	372
Share of no-industry districts	114	94	49

(c) to (f) A letter of intent is granted with an initial validity period of one year. However, further extensions are also granted on adequate justification. After the entrepreneur fulfils the conditions of the letter of intent, the same is converted into an industrial licence. The initial validity period of an industrial licence is two years within which the entrepreneur is expected to commence commercial production. However, further extensions beyond the initial validity period of two years can also be granted by the admn. Ministry concerned on genuine grounds. Thus, it takes about three to four years for an industrial project to fructify. However, if the holder of the letter of intent/industrial licence fails to implement it within its validity period, the same is cancelled/revoked by the admn. Ministry concerned.

Out of the total 3293 letters of intent granted during 1985 to 1987 (upto sept.), 429 letters of intent have already been converted into industrial licences and another 214 letters of intent have been treated as lapsed by 30.9.87.

Proposals to raise industrial growth rate

183. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1620 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th August, 1987 and state:

(a) what are the specific steps taken to stimulate industrial production and growth; and

(b) whether Government have taken into account the impact of the recent wide-spread drought on the industrial growth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Government have, *inter alia*, taken several measures to stimulate industrial production/growth which include delicensing of 28 groups of industries and 82 bulk drugs and formulations, broad-banding of 33 industries, reendorsement of capacity with reference to minimum economic scales of operation, enlargement of Appendix-I industries, adoption of a simplified procedure for recognition of capacity arising out of modernisation/replacement/renovation of plant and machinery etc. Time limits have been prescribed for various clearances/approvals by Licensing Committee, Project Approval Board, Capital Goods Committee, Foreign Investment Board, etc. Powers have also been delegated to Administrative Ministries.

(b) Government are seized of the impact of recent drought on industrial sector. During 1987-88 a special programme of technological upgradation for selected capital goods industries has been launched. These

include electrical machinery, power generation equipment. ferrous castings and steel forgings, machine tools and industrial machinery.

Monopolistic Trade Practices in Safety Razor Blade Industry

184. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH:
SHRI J. P. GOYAL:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked the MRTP Commission to go into the matter of prevalance of monopolistic trade practices in the safety razor blade industry in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the terms of reference and by what time the Commission is expected to complete its work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The terms of reference are given in the Statement given below.

No time limit has been prescribed for the MRTP Commission to submit its report.

Statement

The Monopolies and Restictive Trade Practices Commission has been asked to inquire into the matter and report its findings to the Central Government, and in particular on each of the following questions, namely:—

(a) whether monopolistic trade practices prevail in respect of the said industry;

(b) whether monopolistic trade practices are indulged in jointly or severally by any one or more owners of undertakings engaged in the said industry;

(c) whether monopolistic trade practices indulged in by one or more owners of undertakings are attributable to:

(i) their individual or collective share in the market for the said industry;

(ii) any act or practice resorted to, or commercial policy pursued by them, and whether such act, practice or policy has resulted in deterioration of quality or standard of safety razor blades;

(iii) any agreement or agreements executed between them.

(d) whether the Commission has found, as a result of its inquiry, that monopolistic trade practices operate or are likely to operate against the public interest.

Liberalisation of Industrial Policy

185. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are proposing further liberalisation of the Industrial Policy; and

(b) if so, the salient features of such liberalisation and the justification therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) Liberalisation of the Licensing policy & procedure is a continuous process and in pursuance of this policy measures are taken from time to time directed towards removing the irritants in achieving a rapid industrial growth in the country. As and when decisions are taken these are announced by means of Press Notes.